

## SJC Students Celebrates Civil Rights Hero on MLK Day

By Michael Garrity, Staff Writer

Last Monday, January 21, 2008, was Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Saint Joseph's College held its annual events in honor of the civil rights activist and American icon for which the day is named. It was organized by the SJC Diversity Coalition as a way to celebrate MLK Day and, as the Diversity Coalition President, sophomore Elementary Education major Chris Barrios said, "Bring more knowledge to the College and surrounding about Martin Luther King Jr. and what he's accomplished for our nation."

King, whose actual birthday is January 15, is known for his extremely proactive and nonviolent approach to the civil rights movement in the 1960s, and has become one of the most celebrated individuals in American history. His recognition is rightfully earned, as he accomplished more through pacifism than any other civil rights leader in America before or after his time.

As a special guest, the Diversity Coalition brought in Ken Carter, who is forever immortalized by Samuel L. Jackson in the 2005 film *Coach Carter*. He spoke at Richard F.

Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse for everyone who attended the event.

The Coalition brought in Carter because, "He can reach all types of people. Not only does he speak to minorities, but to athletes and future teachers as well," said Barrios.

The day started off with students being bussed from the College to the Rensselaer Courthouse steps at around noon. The parade began at 12:30, bringing students from the area, including a group from Kankakee Valley, and the march made it back to campus by 1 p.m. After that, everyone filled to the Fieldhouse where keynote speaker Ken Carter, delivered a electrifying speech entitled "Average is Just Not Good Enough," coinciding with the major motion picture based on the real-life events surrounding Carter's work in 1999 as head basketball coach at Richmond High School.

During the preceedings, they announced the winners of the MLK Essay contest, which consisted of a winner at the elementary, middle school, and

college level. Mackenzie Meeks, a fifth grader from St. Augustine, was

the elementary school winner. Justin Kryshak, an eighth grader from Rensselaer Central Middle School, was the middle school winner and sophomore English major Joseph Stewart won in the college division.

Also, Director of Television and Associate Professor of Communication Fred Berger was honored with the Martin Luther King Jr. Award given to a staff member each year for their contributions to the SJC community. Berger was recognized for his continuing work with the SJC chapter of Habitat for Humanity. He received the award to a standing ovation.

Carter, after the program concluded, was available for autographs and pictures in the school cafeteria.



The Saint Joseph's College Diversity Coalition sponsored a march from the county courthouse back to campus. Members of the local community participated and showed their support. (photo courtesy of Rev. Tim McFarland C.PPS '78).

## No Rest for Campus Ministry

By Sam Duffey, Staff Writer

The second semester is just underway, but Campus Ministry is not taking any weekend breaks. On Sunday January 13, Volunteer Core, a part of Saint Joseph's College Campus Ministry, took a trip to Saint Victor's church located in Calumet City, Illinois to help at a local soup kitchen. Poverty does stretch beyond the limits of a closely located big city like Chicago and their presence was much appreciated.

"It was a really enjoyable experience, I enjoyed hanging out with friends while doing service for people in need," junior Bio-Chemistry major Cheryl Zakowski said.

In total, 18 SJC students helped out, either by preparing the food on the Saturday before the trip or attending the trip on Sunday.

For the students who attended the trip on Sunday, they did more than their share of work. Heating up the food, making coffee, dishing out the food, greeting people, and cleaning, are

just a few of the jobs in which they participated, but nobody was complaining. The looks on the under privileged peoples faces were enough to keep even the most tired volunteer going.

Ary Nelson '02, Campus Minister, recalled a memory that she has of two elderly women waiting in line to get into the soup kitchen, one of the women was not wearing any gloves so the woman in front of her in line asked her if she would like a pair of gloves, the elderly woman said yes, the women in front of her in line gave up her spot in the food line to go and get a pair of gloves from her car for this cold stranger.

This was not the only time Campus Ministry will be making a trip to Saint Victor's Church. There will be another trip leaving on February 24, and they will be preparing the dishes the day before as well. If you are interested in helping out keep a keen eye for a sign up sheet or talk to Ary Nelson in the Campus Ministry office located in the Halleck Student Center or contact her at aryn@saintjoe.edu.



Coach Ken Carter (above) rises on a chair to pick on Ernest Watson Jr. '82 and forces senior Devin Thomas to do some push-ups (right). (photos courtesy of Rev. Tim McFarland C.PPS '78).



## "Third Thursdays at Three" Returns to Help SJC Students

By Jennifer Ruff, Staff Writer

Last year, Donna Brody, director of Career Development Saint Joseph's College, introduced a program called Third Thursdays at Three. This provided the students with the skills they need when they are attempting to enter the work force. The program was divided in sessions, and the topics

included: creating a résumé and a cover letter, finding an internship, dressing for an interview, and working on interviewing skills. These career building sessions proved helpful to many and for that reason have returned to Saint Joseph's for a second year.

The first Thursday session was held on January 17 in the Career Development Center. There were ten students in attendance, and many were very appreciative of the help. "Not

very often do nice individuals such as Donna Brody take out the time to teach college students a thing or two," said sophomore criminal justice major, Jasmine Carpenter. This particular part of the program focused on writing an effective resume and cover letter. The resume is vital in landing that dream job. There are some do's and don'ts to producing a winning resume.

First, keep it short. Try to keep the resume down to one

page. This makes it much easier for employers to look over. Second, sell yourself to the best of your ability. A resume is a chance to sell you, in a sense. It is important to provide information that the employer wants to know, such as work experience, practicum experience, and volunteer work. Finally keep to your college years. Do not go all the way back to high school in a resume. However, if you received a special award that is not receive

by many, then you can put that on your resume.

The ten who attended walked away with a new sense of confidence on completing a winning resume.

"I'm looking forward to utilizing these tips and will hopefully landing a teaching job sooner rather than later," said senior elementary education major Anna Schlater.

## Career Development to Host Careerfest 2008

By Donna Brody, *Director of Career Development*

There are lots of good reasons to attend this year's campus CareerFest scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, from 1 to 4 pm in the Halleck Center Ballroom. One reason is, if you attend, you will be entered in a drawing for a fantastic prize that will be announced very soon.

"CareerFest is open to students in all majors and of all class years," according to Donna Brody, SJC's Director of Career Development. "I encourage all of our students to plan to spend at least an hour at CareerFest this year."

According to Brody, it is a pretty common practice for employers to start looking for candidates for future hiring well before their last semester of senior year. Some employers start screening likely candidates as early as sophomore year, and others want to find interns to work for them during the summer and on school breaks to develop the best and brightest candidates for future employment after graduation.

Another reason to come to CareerFest? Career and job fairs are a great place to "practice" your interviewing skills in a less-threatening way than a face-to-face interview. This practice might come in handy as you look for summer or part-time

employment or internships on or

off campus.

"At CareerFest you can look over the registration list and choose which employers you want to talk to. If one is busy with another student, you can move on to the next on your list and come back later to talk to the first recruiter," said Brody. Since no one can predict the future, Brody said, students need to be open to talking to a variety of employers because they may end up working for an employer they never thought of.

"Students need to remember that, for example, hospitals don't just employ nurses and doctors and law enforcement agencies don't just hire officers. They have IT departments, laboratories, Accounting Departments, etc. In the same way, industries that hire lots of business majors also may have openings for English majors in their communication departments or psychology majors in their human resource department," Brody said. The key is to have an open mind, talk politely with the recruiters, and if they are impressed, you never know what can happen next.

"I was at a job fair looking for a job myself once," Brody continued. "I talked to a very nice man from a local K-12 school corporation. When I told him all of my teaching and administrative work was on the college level, he wrote down the name and address of a personal friend at a college in Illinois who might have an opening I could apply for. I never

met this man before, but he must have been impressed I stopped to talk to him because he referred me to a personal friend at another organization."

One of our current SJC students reported a similar interaction at the Business Networking Reception in Merrillville in October. She was talking to an alum from a non-school organization. When she told the alum she was hoping to teach elementary school in Lafayette after graduation, the woman gave her the name of a personal friend who has been an employee of that school corporation for a long time. This type of networking is key to a successful job search.

Serious job-seekers who come to this year's CareerFest should make sure to have plenty of resumes in hand and dress professionally for the event. But, students who are just looking at options for future internships or jobs are just as welcome. All students should dress in at least business casual attire (no jeans and hoodies) and have a resume with them if at all possible.

Students who need a resume critique prior to CareerFest should register on the College Central Network found on the Career Development webpage. Go to [www.saintjoe.edu/careers/students](http://www.saintjoe.edu/careers/students) and click the link for CCN. After registering, the site will allow the student to upload a copy of his/her resume. All uploaded resumes come directly to Brody for final

### Top Ten Reasons to Attend Careerfest 2008

10. February is a boring month and it is something to do
9. You will be eligible for a drawing for a fantastic prize to be announced soon
8. All your friends will be there
7. Some employers are coming quite a distance to talk specifically to Saint Joseph's College students about great future internship and job opportunities
6. You'll be in the Halleck Center for lunch anyway, so you might as well come up to the Ballroom and look around
5. Besides the fantastic drawing, employers will be giving away free stuff like pens, key chains, candy, etc.
4. At CareerFest you can practice your interviewing skills in a non-threatening way with recruiters who are easy to talk to
3. You might get a line on a summer job or internship
2. If you are a senior, you might be invited to a second interview with an employer and end up with a real JOB!
1. It's your FUTURE— so you should start thinking about it now

approval before posting. She reviews the resume and if it needs editing, the CCN system will generate an automatic email to the student with Brody's comments. This is a faster way to get a resume reviewed than to make an appointment in the Career Development Center. Students who would like an appointment, however, may call 6188 to schedule a convenient time.

There is no need to print your approved resume on fancy resume paper, according to Brody. Most

employers are expecting plain white, clean paper that is easily scanned and readable. A separate sheet listing your references should only be presented if specifically asked for.

Clear your schedule now to attend CareerFest on February 13, and watch your email for the exciting details about the CareerFest drawing for current SJC students only.

## Presidential Hopefuls Compete at SJC

By Sabrina Butts, *Staff Writer*

Every year, Saint Joseph's College sponsors a competition for incoming freshman that are eligible for a very special prize. This competition takes place over two weekends and end with three winners. The Presidential Scholarship is a very prestigious honor and therefore has very stiff competition, with many excellent students from all over arriving to compete on either of the two competition dates.

The Presidential Scholarship Competition takes place this year on January 19 and 26. The prize is a scholarship for a full tuition

here at Saint Joseph's College. Eligible students are those who are incoming freshmen and transfer students.

"Incoming freshman who are eligible are any student with a G.P.A of 3.0 or higher, are in the top 15% of their class, and have a SAT score of 1100 (excluding the writing portion) or an ACT of

24," said Justin Terria, Assistant Director of Admissions. "I don't think we have ever had a transfer student try for it, though they could be

eligible."

During the competition, the participants are expected to complete an essay on campus, with each participant getting one

of several different questions, and have an interview with two Saint Joseph faculty members to discuss the scholarship and plans about their future career at the school. The competitors are graded on the interview by the faculty who interviewed the students along with the essay. The three winners are then contacted after the two competition dates are over.

"I remember getting really worked up about my interview when I competed," Mathematics and English major and Class of 2010 recipient of the Presidential Scholarship, Mike Koscielny, said. "However in hindsight, I should not have worried because the interviewers were solely concerned with getting to know a little more about me."

The competition also includes a banquet once the interviews and essays are complete. There, students are awarded for accomplishments in their high schools before leaving to wait with batedbreath for the results.

"I remember getting really worked up about my interview when I competed"

### Upcoming Campus Events

- Thursday, January 24 through Sunday, January 27: Campus Ministry-sponsored Kairos 49
- Friday, January 25 at 9:00 p.m.: SUB-sponsored musician John Rush: the Human iPod performs in the Cafeteria
- Saturday, January 26 beginning at 1:00 p.m.: Alumni Day Events during both the men's and women's Basketball games

## Fountain Stone Theaters Offer Free Concessions to SJC Students

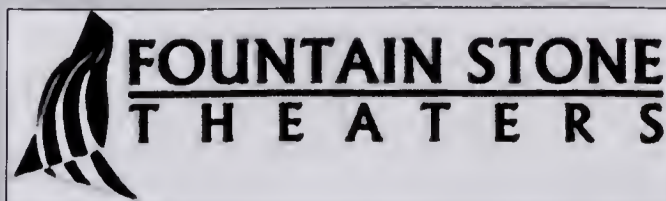
By Becky Scherer '05, *Director of Publications and Media Relations*

At Fountain Stone Theaters, Saint Joseph's College students receive more than just the opportunity to view great new flicks. A free medium popcorn awaits Pumas who show their student identification cards at the concession stand. The offer remains in effect at all times.

"Fountain Stone Theaters is a valuable asset for the SJC students as far as entertainment is concerned, and SJC students are a valuable asset to us. This free treat is a sign of our gratitude to the College and the student body for supporting Fountain Stone Theaters," said Eric Jackson, owner of Fountain Stone Theaters.

Located at 1376 Saint Gaspar Drive in Rensselaer, the theater operates five state-of-the-art screens and contains stadium seating.

Matinee showings are held until 6 p.m. CST daily for \$5 per person, while adult admission after 6 p.m. is \$7. Children under the age of 12 and senior citizens aged 62 years and up are \$5 each. Call the Fountain Stone Theaters Movie Hotline at (219) 866-2222 for movie times, or visit their Web site at [www.fountainstone.com](http://www.fountainstone.com).



## Successfully Safer? Some Students Say So.

By Jacob Teska, *Opinions Writer*

Are we safer? The question has been constantly asked since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Has the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the Patriot Act and tightened security at airports and stadiums across the country made our great nation a more secure one? The answer is yes and no. I would grade our national security a C, compared to the F I would have given before 9/11. Much progress has been made but there is plenty of room for improvement.

The truth is the 9/11 terror attacks should have never taken place. You see, while Bill Clinton was having "fun" in the Oval Office and then subsequently trying to save face, he managed to neglect serious security issues. The "War on Terror" should have been started in 1993 after the first World Trade Center bombing which was carried out by members of Al Qaeda. And, if Clinton's administration was too busy in '93 to step up security and go after Osama Bin Laden, the former president surely should have done something in the wake of the many U.S. Embassy bombings abroad in the mid-90's. Maybe, just maybe if Clinton had noticed the troubling trend after the 2000 Al Qaeda bombing of the U.S.S. Cole, the



The U.S.S. Cole aftermath (Photo courtesy of [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/images/ddg-67\\_cole-hole-close\\_usnavy01.jpg](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/images/ddg-67_cole-hole-close_usnavy01.jpg))



Never forget. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.heal911.com/aaHeal9-11Self\\_files/towers.jpg](http://www.heal911.com/aaHeal9-11Self_files/towers.jpg))

September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks would not have happened.

The disturbing fact is that for years nothing was done about the problem of Islamic Extremists whose main target was the United States. The Clinton administration brushed it off and passed it on to President Bush. While I am not George W.'s biggest fan, I am happy that after 9/11 we had a president who had the spine to stand up and fight for his country and its people. Whether you agree with the Patriot Act or the Iraq War is not important. What IS important is that we are much more secure as a nation than we were 6+ years ago.

Wherever you are right now, stand up and give a round of applause for U.S. and British intelligence agencies which have foiled countless terror plots in the past several years. Together, the two countries have stopped more than 4 airline plots, prevented what is called the "Jose Padilla Plot", which was a plot to blow up U.S. apartment buildings using dirty bombs, and foiled several plots aimed to destroy targets in urban British areas.

However there are still many security issues here on the home-front which need to be addressed.

We have yet to fully secure our borders. If 20 million illegal immigrants can enter this country I am sure it would not be too difficult for an Islamic Extremist to do the same. Also, only a small number of cargo containers that enter the U.S. through seaports are inspected properly. If a group such as Al Qaeda wished to transport nuclear or biological materials, this would be a good way to do so. We need to have 100% inspection of all cargo entering this country. We also need to find a way to squash the black market for illegal and forged U.S. documents. America will not truly be safe until these issues are taken care of.

The most important thing for American citizens is to never forget. Never forget how you felt that day. Never forget how your heart sunk as you watched the jet crash into second tower on live television. Never forget the 3,000 Americans who lost their lives and never forget the silence. Do not live in fear but recognize that the fighting is not always thousands of miles away and continually press your representatives for a more secure nation.



...Nuff said (Photo courtesy of [http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/zwiki/images/regions/maps/jpeg/United\\_States\\_of\\_America.jpg](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/zwiki/images/regions/maps/jpeg/United_States_of_America.jpg))

## Cornucopia of Core and Craziness

By Brent J Houlding, *Opinion Editor*

Welcome back pumas and female pumas. I trust you all had a stellar break and are once again enjoying all the fun that classes have to offer. This week is a cornucopia of topics, from late nights to Magic to a couple of lists. Let's go!

First off, a query. Why oh why are no restaurants open in Rensselaer after about 10 p.m.? I can't tell you how many times I have been up late working or just hanging out, and suddenly got super hungry. There's always the HUB, but even that closes at 12. Where's our Steak 'n Shake? Our 24 hour McD's? Heck, bring back Grandma's. But no, no, we are lost to the world. It is tragic that the town does not appreciate us and the money we have to offer. I envy the first person to get smart and open a 24 stand across the street: they will be instantly rich.

So, in the course of my activities this past weekend, I came across the existence of a list created by Forbes. The list? The Top 15 Wealthiest Fictional Characters. Top of the list is Scrooge McDuck, all the way down to Princess Peach of Mario fame at 15. Other notables include Thurston Howell III, Carter Pewterschmit a.k.a. Peter Griffin's father-in-law, and Jed Clampett, whose worth skyrocketed in the last year as the gas crisis escalates. Noticeably absent is former number one Santa Claus. Apparently the elf slave trade isn't what it used to be.

Another list I came across was "25 skills every man should know" from Popular Mechanics. The list covers a wide variety of skills, ranging from the undeniably manly "Fillet a fish" to the questionable "Retouch digital photos". Yours truly can (theoretically) do 15 of the 25. Check the list out for yourself at <http://www.popularmechanics.com>.



The Super-Knife (Photo courtesy of [http://www.popularmechanics.com/blogs/technology\\_news/4221635.html](http://www.popularmechanics.com/blogs/technology_news/4221635.html))

So, football. As much as I am loathe to discuss it at all after the loss of the Packers in OT on Sunday, the Superbowl should be a good game. The Giants have a legitimate shot at playing spoiler, just as they did in Week 17. Look for a final score of New England Patriots 42, New York Giants 33 in this football version of Red Sox-Yankees (like Boston and New York needed another reason to fight).

In other news, Core 8 and 10 are both beginning quite excellently as far as I'm concerned. The



Man, could I go for half chocolate half banana shake right now. Will some entrepreneur please come and save us? We're so hungry! Gosh. (Photo thanks to <http://www.knowledgeforthirst.com/wp-content/uploads/2006/04/steak%20n%20shake.gif>)

Core 8 lectures have been quite culturally enriching, and the readings interesting, albeit disturbing and/or unsettling at times. Core 10 is going equally well, and look for interesting tidbits about gambling to pop up in future articles, as that looks to be my research topic.

Magic fans rejoice, for Morningtide has arrived.

Another semester has arrived, and soon it will leave us, so savor it well my friends. Til next issue, adios (and see Tartuffe!).

## Observer Staff

● Editor-in-Chief  
BJ Houlding

● Opinion Editor  
BJ Houlding

● News Editor  
Mike Kascielny

● Features Editor  
Gabe Nichals

● Sports Editor  
Andrew Castella

● Omega Editor  
Danielle Marshall

### Contributors

Erica Brawn  
Sabrina Butts  
Michael Garrity  
Kathleen Grady  
Erika Rawshan  
Jennifer Ruff  
Becky Scherer '05  
David Spencer  
Jacob Teska  
Clark Tescher '00

● Faculty  
Facilitator  
Charles Kerlin

## Tartuffe Titillating Today, Despite Antiquity

By Brent J. Houlding, *Opinion Editor*

Tartuffe is a play written by a Frenchman named Moliere in 1664, the time of French and British global domination, Louis XIV's reign as king of France, and piracy in the Caribbean. So what could a comedy written so long ago remain funny today, where comedy has been redefined to the likes of Old School and Friends? As it turns out, a lot.

I'll admit that I was skeptical at first too. A play from the 17<sup>th</sup> century being of legitimate comedic value? It can't be, I thought. Surely it will be more of a historical piece of only artistic curiosity. Powdered wigs aren't funny to me. But alas, how wrong I was. Let me drift over the plot for you, and you can see if you agree. (WARNING: Spoilers ahead)

The show opens with a crotchety old woman (Sophomore Roxie Kooi) verbally tearing apart her family and help, defending her dear son Orgon (Senior Jonathan Broeker) and his adoration for the oh-so-pious Tartuffe (Senior BJ Houlding). Soon we learn that Orgon's wife Elmire (Junior Heather Madden) has taken ill in his absence, but upon his return,

his only concern is for the well-being of his dear Tartuffe.

As Act II opens, Orgon is threatening to marry off his daughter Mariane (Freshman Megan Bobonick) to Tartuffe, despite the fact he's already promised her hand to Valere (Sophomore Joe Stewart). She can't stand up for herself, so the maid Dorine (Sophomore Meagan Anderson) does so in typical uppity proletariat fashion, coming to near blows with Orgon. After Orgon stomps off, Dorine is forced to mediate a Dawson's Creek caliber fight between Mariane and Valere.

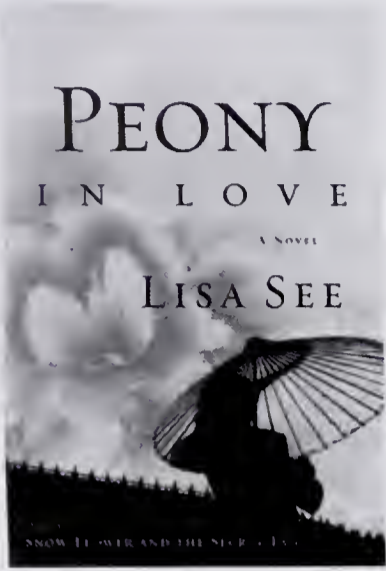
In Act III we finally meet Tartuffe. Elmire knows that he has a soft spot (Think Quagmire/Lois of Family Guy fame) for her, and goads him into breaking his pious act and making inappropriate advances, in order to blackmail him into refusing Mariane's hand. It goes awry, however, in large part to Damis (Freshman Matt) and as the act ends, Orgon is all the more convinced of Tartuffe's piety, going as far to give Tartuffe his estate.

Act IV finds Orgon's family telling him what a mistake he's made, particularly his wise brother (Junior David Spencer). In order to show Orgon what kind of character Tartuffe is, Elmire convinces Orgon to hide and watch as she once again tricks Tartuffe into making inappropriate moves on her. Orgon kicks Tartuffe out, but Tartuffe maintains that he now has the power, which scares Orgon witless. The conclusion of the play shows Orgon and family sitting around nervous as a baliff (Junior Jason Keller), a police officer (Ryan Ferrar), and Tartuffe all show up to seize property and freedom. The denouement is surprising and comedic to boot, so I won't spoil it here.

The point of all this chatter is that Tartuffe has a lot to offer in the comedy department, from slapstick to vaguely questionable puns. If nothing else, the play will allow you to watch 12 of your peers speak in rhyming couplets for a couple hours. You can come for the Dr. Suess action, but I guarantee you'll stay for the rest.

# Peony in Love and the Afterlife

By Erika Rowshan, Staff Writer



Apparently the young woman on the right is about to be attacked by a giant flower. Spoiler: It's the monster from *Cloverfield*. (<http://www.amazon.com/Peony-Love-Novel-Lisa-See/dp/140006466X>)

Hello loyal book review readers of Saint Joseph’s College. I do certainly hope that you enjoyed your Christmas break! I know I definitely did. Why? Because of the fact that I am something of a nerd, and asked for a large amount of books for Christmas. I received about ten new books, which I plan on reading at some point in time. Nevertheless, one of the books that I received for Christmas is a book called *Peony in Love* by Lisa See, and said novel is the one I have chosen to review for this issue of *The Observer*.

Some of you may recognize the name Lisa See from my very first book review, in which I reviewed *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*. Just as a reminder, I highly recommended *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* to anyone who is interested in historical Chinese culture (especially culture centered around women). *Peony in Love* is yet another novel by Lisa See that I recommend, due to the cultural overtones that permeate throughout.

*Peony in Love* explores the culture of women in seventeenth-century China. Instead of simply focusing on the struggles of women, foot binding, and familial life, *Peony in Love* takes on a completely different journey by focusing on the Chinese beliefs in what occurs after death. Since I had not previously known anything about the Chinese culture and its beliefs in death (or life after death, so to speak), I was highly intrigued by this aspect of *Peony in Love*.

*Peony in Love* mainly focuses on the character of a young teenaged girl named Peony and the man she falls in love with, a poet by the name of Ren. Through many different situations and happenings, Peony eventually perishes from something that is known throughout the countryside as “love sickness”. This basically means that Peony becomes so obsessed with being in love that she forgets everything else about living, until she eventually perishes. Throughout most of the story, we are viewing Peony’s journey through death in which Peony both helps and harms those she loves.

Although my favorite part of *Peony in Love* was the aspect of Peony’s journey through death, I also found other aspects of the novel to be quite interesting. The love story between Peony and Ren was heartbreaking and beautiful at the same time, due to Peony’s untimely death. I also enjoyed learning more about women’s culture in China during this time period. It was interesting to see how Peony and the different women of that day may have acted with one another.

Although *Peony in Love* was a very interesting book, I did feel that it somewhat lacked something in comparison to See’s *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*. I felt as if *Peony in Love* may have focused a bit too much on the surreal nature of death, and not enough on the human aspects of this colorful time period in Chinese history.

This is why I give *Peony in Love*:



It's a peony. Yes, this editor has lost all semblance of creativity. (<http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/flowers/images/peony.jpg>)

# Cloverfield Takes Manhattan, Film at 11:00

By Gabriele Nichols, Features Editor

Today we live in a world of constant documentation. People across the world, especially college students, film every random occurrence or stupid action and then upload them to the internet in hope of their ten minutes of fame (since YouTube restricts videos to that long). Inspired by the growing phenomenon, *Lost*-creator J.J. Abrams decided to unleash a monster movie from a different perspective, more terrifying perspective.

*Cloverfield* takes the traditional monster movie, with a rampaging creature tearing apart a major city, and changes the vantage point. Instead of seeing everything from a high level, with aerial shots of the beast wreaking havoc, the entire movie takes place from the perspective of a single camcorder. What results is a movie that feels like a weird amalgamation of many other films, including *The Blair Witch Project* and, somewhat obviously, *Godzilla*.

The plot itself is simple enough. Rob Hawkins is leaving America for a new job in Japan, and his friends and family are having a major going away party in his honor. In the middle of the festivities, a massive explosion shakes the entire city, and something rather big and iconic lands outside the apartment building. After that, it becomes a

race to find a trapped friend and then escape the madness unleashed. Saying anything more would give away far too many of the surprises.

Listing the actors of the movie would be pointless, as the creators purposely chose unknowns to increase the realism. This gamble pays off effectively, as the unknowns manage to convey believable emotions and evoke sympathy, even as the plot afflicts them with overly cruel and sometimes contrived events. The camerawork itself becomes unsettling, not just for the way it hides the monster and surprises the viewer, but also for the way it can make the audience queasy from the complete unsteadiness.

*Cloverfield* is an impressive feat, often genuinely horrifying and exhibiting some amazing special effects. The monster itself is also not a disappointment, unlike the wretched 1998 American remake of *Godzilla*. However, what the movie does not do is explain anything whatsoever. This tactic is often useful in small doses, but in a movie like *Cloverfield* it can be almost maddening. Nothing about the monster is explained, without any information about its origin, nature, motivations, or anything else relevant. At one point, an extremely horrible death is witnessed, but nothing is done to explain why or how it

happened, and the event is never mentioned or seen again.

This total lack of exposition is partially explained by the movie’s integration with the internet. A growing advertising tactic, *Cloverfield* was hyped in part by a mass of fictional websites connected to the world of the movie. Unlike most movies that use this new tactic, like *The Dark Knight*, the information found on these websites can actually be combined to explain much of the movie’s backstory and the creature’s origin. The creators essentially make the viewer perform a scavenger hunt across the internet to complete a movie they have already viewed in theatres. It’s an interesting concept, and something that more movies may start to utilize, but one that is rather infuriating for those without decent internet access or the time to play a massive game of detective. Even with being overly mysterious, *Cloverfield* still manages the minor achievement of creating a uniquely American monster movie that just happens to act often like a traditional horror movie. The spectacle alone is worth the admission. This is definitely a movie best scene in theatres, where the destruction rumbles and seems all too real.

# The Magnetic Fields Bring Beautiful Distortion

By Gabriele Nichols, Features Editor

Stephin Merritt, working under various band names, has long made a tradition of experimenting with different sounds and genres. Under the name The Magnetic Fields, he released what many consider to be a modern masterpiece, *69 Love Songs*, which literally contained 69 love songs covering a wide range of genres and styles. Other projects have included weird dance pop, under the name Future Bible Heroes, and Goth children’s song, as The Gothic Archies. Working again under the Magnetic Fields moniker, Merritt releases his latest musical experiment, the fittingly titled *Distortion*.

Usually, distortion is something to be avoided in music, the unpleasant result of shoddy equipment and bad production. Squalls of white noise do not create easy listening, or even non-eardrum shattering listening. Indie music has never been about easy listening. As such, many bands in the last few decades have utilized feedback and distortion as another instrument, one that is chaotic, unpredictable, and utterly atmospheric.

By exploring distortion as a tool, Merritt follows in the footsteps of many acclaimed

bands, including Sonic Youth, My Bloody Valentine, and especially The Jesus and Mary Chain. Before the release of the album, Merritt told music website Drowned in Sound that he found The Jesus and Mary Chain last great development in music production.

*Distortion* is not the first revival of distortion, as many recent bands like The Raveonettes and Black Rebel Motorcycle Club have often sounded close to a Jesus and Mary Chain tribute band. However, the album adds something new to the mix. Merritt brings his usual amazing songwriting talent to the equation, setting off brilliant lyrics along with the harsh sound.

Most of the songs are hilarious looks at depression, loneliness, and bitterness. “Too Drunk Too Dream” is especially a standout, as Merritt sings of how much better life is when one is inebriated, and how intolerable it becomes when sober. “California Girls” is a nasty tongue lashing against vain women set to a cheery sounding melody, of course covered in distortion.

Part of the problem of the album is that it does not sound cohesive. The classic sounding

melodies often make a fun mix with the feedback, but never seem to fit together correctly. Everything sounds obvious that Merritt is trying a new experiment, rather than creating a new sound.

There are a few tracks that are perfect in their construction. “Three-Way” is an essentially instrumental piece that sounds like surf pop filtered through a blender. “Zombie Boy” uses creepy instrumentation and lyrics to become decidedly menacing. While most of the tracks do not achieve this level of cohesion, there are still no truly bad songs on the album. It is simply disappointing that Merritt did not try to better combine the experiment with his melodic impulses.

A review once described The Jesus and Mary Chain as sounding something like beautiful melodies surfing a slaughterhouse wave of blood. On *Distortion*, it’s quite obvious that Stephen Merritt is simply visiting the slaughter house, not making it his permanent domain. However, he does bring back some interesting ideas from the trip.

## Confessions of a *Guitar Hero* Addict

By Gabriele Nichols, *Features Editor*

Hello, my name is Gabriele Nichols, you killed my father, prepare to die...

Wait, that's not right. Hello, my name is Gabriele Nichols, and I'm a *Guitar Hero* addict.

"Oh sure," you say. "It's only a video game. What could be so addictive about that?"

Well, in response to this imaginary question, I can only say that *Guitar Hero* is a plague, a disease spreading among America's youth that will only lead to disappointment, delirium, disillusionment, and other nasty words that start with the letter "d." I hope, through showing my struggle, that I will inspire others to throw off the chains of addiction and learn to enjoy healthier pastimes, like being a rodeo clown or smoking illicit substances.

### The First Stage of Addiction- Emotional

It all starts over Christmas break, when its time for warm cozy fires and holiday cheer with family and loved ones. Thus, I'm going out of my mind and feel like attempting suicide via poinsettia poisoning.

In this dark time of tinsel, a shining light emerges, a true savior. No, not Jesus, *Guitar Hero*. I open the box with all the care of a rabid wombat and quickly begin playing the game. Before long, I discover something

amazing. I'm terrible, missing more notes than 10 local rock bands combined.

Yet, since my only other choice for entertainment is long talks with people over three times my age, I always return to the game. Eventually, I discover that I have finally reached a major milestone; I'm only slightly terrible at the game.

### The Second Stage of Addiction- Mental

With the return to school comes relief from the mind destroying boredom. The game should no longer seem that important, even if I have reached a point where I could actually beat a retarded chimpanzee playing the game. I'm still outplayed by a mentally challenged gorilla, though.

However, I find myself thinking of the game all the time. Every time I hear a song, my fingers begin twisting onto the frets of an imaginary guitar, envisioning the brightly colored notes flying through the air.

Friends look at me strangely, as I sit staring into space, mumbling about hammer-ons and pull-offs. I hear none of it, as I'm achieving high scores in my head.



You will absolutely never look this cool playing the game. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.gamingblog.org/images/guitar-hero-iii-a\\_52.jpg](http://www.gamingblog.org/images/guitar-hero-iii-a_52.jpg))

### The Third Stage of Addiction- Physical

Every waking moment, I play *Guitar Hero*. It's nearly impossible to get me to class, and friends must deliver food lest I starve to death.

Worse, the game's thrills begin to leave me cold, since I can play without failing after 30 seconds of "Slow Ride" by Foghat. I begin trying the harder drug of, well, the hard difficulty, searching for that new thrill. The new thrill being me randomly hitting buttons in a vain attempt to succeed.

### The Fourth Stage of Addiction- Complete Insanity

I finally snap. Maybe it's the not sleeping in three weeks, or maybe it's living off of pretzels and caffeine pills, or maybe it's the fact I haven't had human contact for 5 days.

Anyway, I finally lose all sense of reality. After finally beating the game on "So Difficult You're a Masochist If You Play This" difficulty, I believe that I really am a guitar hero.

I begin to act like a rock star. I hire roadies to transport my guitar controller and plug-in the game system to the

television. My wardrobe changes, as I suddenly have a desire to wear sequins and to buy many pairs of sunglasses. I also attempt to charge professors for autographs, while they keep claiming that I have to put my name on assignments regardless if they pay me.

One day, I discover I'm attempting to become intimate with a mop that I have mistaken for a groupie. The IQ is probably similar, but regardless, I finally discover I've reached a new low.

At least, a new low until I attempt lighting the guitar controller on fire in imitation of

Jimi Hendrix. Not only do I set off the fire alarm, I also discover that melted plastic has a tendency to cause severe third degree burns.

### Recovery

After a brief hospital stay, I have finally come to my senses. Music no longer sends me into a strumming frenzy, and I no longer feel the need to play the insidious game. I can now spread the word that *Guitar Hero* must be stopped before the youth of our nation are absolutely corrupted.

What? You say there's a new game, called *Rock Band*, which lets you play drums and sing vocals in addition to playing the guitar? You say it's even better? Well, I guess I could play it just the one time...



Don't judge me. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.acejanitorial.co.uk/images/products/HA014.jpg>)

## The Dangers of Dihydrogen Monoxide

By Erica Brown, *Staff Writer*

A couple of days ago, I was asked to write an article for *The Observer* by the editor of this page. So, not having any inspiration whatsoever as to what to write about, I immediately turned to the internet in the hopes of finding some sort of idea. Readers, I was astounded at what I found. While looking at an environmental web page I found a link to the Dihydrogen Monoxide Research Division website (DHMO.org). As I explored the website, I must say that I was completely and utterly shocked.

I was originally going to write some kind of funny article that everybody would compare to Joe Larson's, and then promptly think I was some kind of wanna be. However, as I read more and more of the DHMO website, I quickly decided that I needed to address another issue, one that can potentially help citizens everywhere. Did the readers know that our water system has been contaminated by this highly hazardous chemical? Dihydrogen Monoxide is an odorless and tasteless chemical that dissolves completely into water. So, despite the reports that this potentially fatal chemical compound was getting into our water system, our government has done nothing to rectify this situation.

Many government agencies, such as the FDA, FEMA, and the CDC have addressed this issue,



Is your tower next? Probably. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.iowawaterquality.org/usda\\_pictures/iowa's\\_waters/designated\\_uses/drinking\\_water\\_supply/water\\_towers/adel\\_water\\_tower.jpg](http://www.iowawaterquality.org/usda_pictures/iowa's_waters/designated_uses/drinking_water_supply/water_towers/adel_water_tower.jpg))

but it is still widely ignored by the general population, as well as the branches of government who could really do something about this problem.

I bet that some of you do not believe me when I say that Dihydrogen Monoxide is a harmful and potentially fatal chemical. To try to sway some of the doubters out there, let me give you some information about the uses of this chemical as well as some statistics.

Dihydrogen is one of the leading causes of death among children under the age of fifteen,

as well as being fourteen times more likely to be involved in the death of a child under the age of four than a motor vehicle. Children under the five and adolescents between the ages of 15-24 have the highest death rates from this chemical (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and about five thousand children under the age of fourteen are hospitalized due to exposure to this compound. Fifteen percent of these children die in the hospital, and about twenty percent suffer severe permanent neurological disability (National Safety Council).

Dihydrogen Monoxide is used in the making of Styrofoam, and is an industrial solvent and coolant. It is frequently used in animal testing, and has been linked directly to thousands of deaths world wide, especially in third-world countries. The use of this compound was talked about and included in the Geneva Convention, and certain types of exposure to the substance have been termed cruel and unusual punishment.

This compound accelerates corrosion and rusting, and is an integral part of the operation of nuclear power plants. Dihydrogen Monoxide is also one of the main ingredients of acid rain, and is found in biopsies of pre-cancerous tumors and lesions. There are many more uses for this hazardous

compound, but they really are too numerous to name in the small space I have for this article.

Now that my readers know some of the harmful affects of this deadly compound, I hope that you, like me, will decide that something needs to be done. You may not realize it, but (as stated earlier) you are exposed to this harmful compound every day. We, as a society, cannot allow this atrocity to go on any longer. If we continue to ignore the problems associated with this chemical, who knows what the future will hold. It is up to us as we plan and go into the future to bring about changes for the betterment of our society.

Something must be done about this much ignored subject, and I hope that I am doing my part by relaying this information to the student body. I have given you the information and hopefully gotten the ball going for some of you readers out there to take this knowledge and use it. I hope that as concerned readers you will start some kind of petition, protest group, or movement to bring some of the statistics I related to you to light. Let us start a new movement together, one that bans the use of Dihydrogen Monoxide everywhere!

Due to the controversy last semester, I would like to write a brief disclaimer here to protect myself from any backlash from this article (I do not expect any,

but it is always better safe than sorry). I would just like to say that I am sorry if this article offends anyone, I just wished to educate my fellow peers. I would also like to note that I am not responsible for any movements, protests, or petitions that are started because of this. Please do not shoot the messenger.



It's rain! That's acid! Acid rain! Yeah, I got nothing. (Photo courtesy of <http://reports.eea.europa.eu/2599XXX/en/acid.gif>)

# The Strongest Team In The Strongest Conference



By David Spencer '09,  
Staff Writer

Playing in the frigid temperatures of January in Foxboro, Massachusetts, the New England Patriots will be rewarded with a trip to Glendale, Arizona to play in the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Super Bowl, their fourth in the last seven years. The Patriots, who have been the story of the NFL all season long playing week after week without being defeated, scored more points than their opponent once again by defeating the surging San Diego Chargers in Foxboro for the AFC Championship, 21-12.

The Patriots 18<sup>th</sup> win of the season was obtained despite three interceptions thrown by league MVP Tom Brady. However, the story of the day, and the deciding factor in winning championships, was the defense. Four times, the Chargers drove down the field against the experienced New England defense, only to be held to field goals. Those four field goals amounted to 12 points, and if those field goals would instead have been touchdowns (three of

the field goals were kicked in the red zone), the Chargers would have had 28 points. Those red zone stops secured the Patriots victory, who despite some offensive turnovers, managed to outscore their opponent. The Chargers scored on four field goals, while the Patriots scored three touchdowns. If the Patriots continue to convert in the red zone with touchdowns, there is no reason why they cannot complete the greatest season in NFL history in Super Bowl XLII. This comes as no surprise as the Patriots set a record not only for most points scored in a season this year, but also for most touchdowns.

Along with the Patriots defense, the other notable factor was the play of running back Lawrence Maroney. Maroney, the second year back out of Minnesota, finished with 25 carries for 122 yards and a touchdown, and his running has driven the Patriots' offense throughout their past two

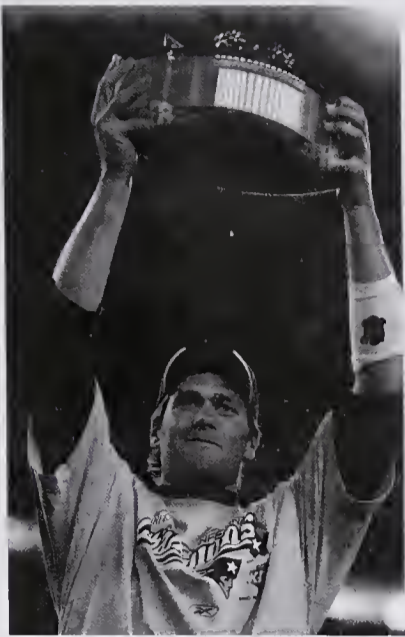
postseason wins. He'll need to be in top form against the NFC Champion Giants in the Super Bowl to offset the talented pass rushers of New York. The more success he has, the more opportunities Tom Brady will have to throw downfield to Randy Moss, Wes Welker, and Dante Stallworth.

Looking back on this season, not many people will remember the efforts of the fallen AFC teams, from either Jacksonville or San Diego, and the season all comes down to the Super Bowl, a rematch of the simulcast Week 17 bout between the Giants and the Patriots. The Patriots showed in that game (among others against Indianapolis, Dallas, Baltimore, and Philadelphia) that they are not unbeatable, and have weaknesses that can be exploited. Their defense is old and not as fast as it once was. But they make few mistakes and keep the offense in front of them. Brady has made mistakes in his last few games, and if New York can take

advantage of those mistakes, the Giants have a chance to pull the upset. They led the Patriots twice during the Week 17 game, but failed to close the deal.

The two most watched games of the season will end up being the Super Bowl and the simulcast game between NFL Network, CBS, and NBC in Week 17. The Patriots are looking for their fourth Super Bowl Championship of the decade, a feat not seen since the San Francisco 49ers led by Joe Montana. The game will be played Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. New York versus Boston. Brady versus Manning. History versus little brother Eli. 19-0 or 18-1? The season comes down to this.

ABOVE (Right): The Patriots are one game away from a perfect season. ABOVE (Left): Tom Brady hoists the Lamar Hunt Trophy. Brady seeks his fourth Super Bowl ring in seven seasons. (Photos by NFL.com photo galleries).



## Lady Pumas Caged By Cougars

By Clark Teuscher '00,  
Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team dropped to 0-8 in Great Lakes Valley Conference play and 1-14 overall on Saturday, losing, 67-41, to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at the Vadalabene Center.

The Lady Pumas forced 24 SIUE turnovers, but were outrebounded by the Cougars, 41-24. SJC was also permitted just two trips to the free-throw line.

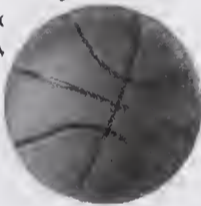
SJC trailed, 30-18, at halftime, and narrowed the gap to single digits when Michelle Kiger (Jr., Rensselaer, IN/IUPUI) opened the second half with a three-pointer.

The Lady Pumas trailed, 37-26, with 15:32 to play when SIUE (11-4, 4-3 GLVC) opened the game up with an 11-2 run that put the hosts ahead, 48-28. The Cougars led by as many as 28 points near the end of the afternoon.

Kiger led SJC with 11 points and five rebounds. Emily Gerber (Fr., DeForest, WI) handed out four assists.

SIUE's Amber Shelton led all scorers with 18 points, while Whitney Sykes totaled 12.

The Lady Pumas host seventh-ranked SIUE 13-2, 5-2 GLV 5:30 p.m.



(Image from GoogleImages: Basketball.)

# Manning is in the Super Bowl again!

## Older brother Peyton sits at home and thinks about next commercial



By Chase Sonen, Sports Editor

With one 47-yard field goal off the foot of Lawrence Tynes everything became crystal clear. First, there will be no swan song for Brett Favre, at least not this year. Second, younger brother Eli might truly be the opposite of Peyton, which could not be all that bad.

Peyton, the mark of consistency throughout his ten year career, boasts the second highest career QB rating in NFL history (94.7). He also has a lifetime regular season record of

115-55. This includes going 3-13 in his first season as a starter.

Eli on the other hand has had many struggles throughout his career. In Eli's first four seasons, he has posted a QB rating of 73.4 and led the Giants to a 30-27 record in games he has started. After a quick glimpse at the stats, it is hard to imagine Eli sharing anything with Peyton besides their last name.

While Peyton has performed at All-World levels throughout

his entire career, the one thing that haunts him is his playoff resume. While he did win the Super bowl last season, it is still hard to overlook his inability to get it done when the lights are shining brightest. Don't get me wrong, I'd still take him over any other QB in professional football, minus a guy named Brady.

Still, even the most avid Peyton supporter has to wince when he looks at Peyton's 7-7 career post season mark (3-7 if you take away last season's Super Bowl run). Even more surprising is Peyton's 17 picks in 14 career playoff games.

This brings me to Eli Manning, basically the New York Version of Rex Grossman, for those of you who do not follow football much. In the past, when Eli was good, he was real good. But when he was bad...let's just say he has 16 games with a QB rating under 50 in 57 starts. This means that

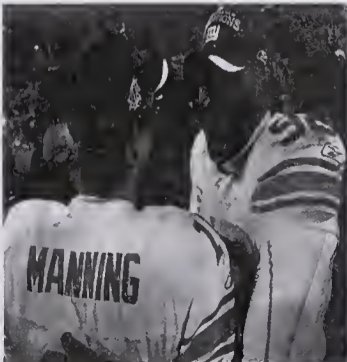
about four or five times a year New York fans are asking for a new quarterback. This was of course until three weeks ago.

Eli has saved his best for last it appears as he has dominated the league the last month of the season. Eli went toe to toe with three playoff teams and put up numbers that older brother Peyton would even be impressed with. Then on the biggest stage of his career Eli did what no one thought possible. He beat the greatest quarterback in NFL history at one of the hardest places to do so (Lambeau Field) on a day made for Green Bay football (temps -25 with wind chill).

So as Eli prepares to beat the Patriots in two weeks, Peyton is left at home to shine his MVP trophies and think what could have been.

I was once told that it was not how you started the race, but how

you ended it that mattered most. After being stuck in his older brothers shadow for years Eli finally can see the finish line. No, he might not be as good, and no, he might not be as marketable, but if Eli can pull one more trick out of his bag in two weeks and do the unthinkable, he will become more than just *The Other Manning*.



TOP Left: Laurence Tynes (9) reacts to his game-winning field goal. BOTTOM Right: Eli Manning (10) and Michael Stahan (91) embrace after winning the NFL Championship. (Photos courtesy of NFL.com photo gallery.)

## Red Wings The Favorite In The NHL



By John Wyatt '09, Staff Writer

With all the hoopla about the NFL and whether or not Tom Brady truly can do the impossible, or can Brett Favre relive his glory days and win the big show to go out on top, people seemingly forget that hockey is near its mid-season point and the standings are getting a little tight. First off, let me just say that when I predicted picks at the beginning of the season I was realistic in the fact that I will probably be wrong about half of them. However, after following the season like any other religious hockey fan, I noticed that my picks are a little bit more correct than I originally thought.

The Red Wings coming out of the West, seemingly the best team in the world ( I admit a bias), is once again ahead of the entire NHL with a great record of 35-10.

Although hitting a slump the past few games, they pulled out a huge victory over the San Jose Sharks last night 6-3, ending the skid hopefully for good. The Ottawa Senators are close behind them from the East with an equally impressive 30-13. So, so far two picks holding true. Now looking at the tight races between the divisions, it's any man's game. The Blackhawk's I gave credit to because, lets face it, we're this close to Chicago so I had to say something nice, but as usual they have flopped to last place. The Flames are surprising me with its lead over the division, but my pick Colorado Avalanche are only 2 points behind, so I like my odds. The Ducks, another pick, are doing pretty well considering they are the defending Western

Conference Champions but with Dallas on their heels it might be a showdown later this season. After starting the season 0-8 the Atlanta Thrashers are now only 1 point behind the division leader... so basically I give up trying to figure out that division. The Penguins lead the Atlantic division, and my picks of either of the New York teams have flopped.

So in other NHL news, the All-Star game is on January 27 this year on the NHL's network version called Versus. Also the NHL can be seen rarely on NBC here at the Joe, the next game is Sunday, February 3rd @ 2pm EST, but if you want a real game watch the Red Wings vs Ducks on Sunday, February 10th, 1pm EST. So you can see what I'm talking about.

(Image above extrapolated from <http://redwings.nhl.com>.)

## Buche Earns Provisional Qualifying Mark At Eastern Illionis

By Clark Teuscher '00, Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's track and field teams tested themselves against a field loaded with NCAA Division I-caliber talent for the second straight week at the Eastern Illinois University Mega Meet on Saturday, and came home with the team's first provisional qualifying mark for the NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships.

Melissa Buche (Fr., Lowell, IN) secured a provisional qualifying mark by clearing 5'6" in the women's high jump to place sixth overall. Her finish in the event equaled that of teammate Alexis DeJean (Fr., Indianapolis, IN/Brownsburg) in the 20-pound weight throw (48'2"). DeJean also placed eighth in the shot put (38'10 1/4"), as did Tiffani Sawmiller (So., Wapakoneta, OH) in the 5,000-meter run (20:10.27).

The top finish for the men's team was recorded by Kyle

Lawson (Sr., Indianapolis, IN/ Univ. of Indianapolis), who placed fifth in the 35-pound weight throw (53'2 1/4"). The Pumas also got top-10 finishes from Corey Spriggs (Fr., Cincinnati, OH/ LaSalle), who placed eighth in the 3,000-meter run (9:04.34), and Sir William McKenzie (So., San Leandro, CA), who took ninth place in the shot put (46'2 3/4").

SJC participates in the Wabash College Invitational on Saturday. The meet is scheduled to get under way at 10 a.m. local time.

## Pumas Ready For Tough Schedule Ahead

By Andrew Costello '08, Sports Editor

After a precarious 3-game losing start off the New Year, the Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team seems to be getting ready to turn things around and make it back to the NCAA tournament for the second time in the past four years. Currently 9-7, the Pumas are gearing up for marquis matchups early in Great Lakes Valley Conference play that will surely make an impression on the tournament selection committee. Although the Pumas are only 6-5 since our last *Observer* issue on December 6<sup>th</sup>, they are confident in how team chemistry and veteran experience will be crucial as the season continues on in the second half.



The Pumas rolled off two huge wins this past weekend, as they defeated Quincy University 69-67 and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville 82-60 on Thursday and Saturday, respectively. In the game against Quincy, the Pumas rallied from four points down in the final two minutes of regulation to secure the win, thanks in great part to a huge block and a game-winning tip-in from junior forward A.J. Mahar. Senior guard Ron Coleman



contributed his part to the game, scoring 25 and nabbing five steals. Senior guard Devin Thomas also punched his time card, getting 18 points.

Needless to say, the Pumas did not have to wait until the final seconds of the game to secure their victory against the Cougars of SIUE this past Saturday. After finishing a 11-2 scoring run to go up 25-17 in the first half, the Pumas never looked back. Fueled by a high completed-free throw percentage (91.7) and sound

## Puma Basketball Profile: Julia LaBlanc

By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor



LaBlanc has contributed significantly to the women's basketball program since her freshman year. (Photo by SJC Sports Information.)

braces...I was really attractive when I was little!

**8. Tom Brady is....:** Smokin' HOT, but Brett Favre is going to carry the Packers to win the Super Bowl!!

**9. Role Model:** My Pops

**10. Career plans:** To be an anchor lady, and be successful and happy

**11. Most embarrassing moment:** When I was in 3rd grade, I cut my hair wanting bangs and then I thought I would get in trouble, so smart me cut it to the top of my head and had a spike for a long time...I looked really sweet!

**12. Taye Diggs or Tyrese:** Tyrese

**13. Familiar with any musical instruments?:** I can play one or two melodies on the piano, and I used to play the recorder in grade school, but I was forced into that!

**14. Greatest obstacle you have overcome:** Just learning from every mistake and making sure I stand up for myself and believe in myself.

**15. Favorite beverage:** Water with lemon

**16. Proudest moment as a Puma:** It will be when I graduate!!!

**17. Favorite Teacher:** Dr. Ryan

Think you know sports?

Giants or Patriots?

**R.I.P Bobby Fisher**



"The Big Ten is WEAK!"

Send articles to [ack5427@saintjoe.edu](mailto:ack5427@saintjoe.edu)

shooting (50 percent), the Pumas established themselves as the team to beat when traveling to the great state of Illinois. Sophomore guard Andrew Helmer had a spectacular performance, scoring 14 and grabbing 10 rebounds, both career highs. The Pumas had three other double-digit scorers, as junior forward Brandon Mayse scored 12 and Ron Coleman and junior guard Will Jones each scored 11.

Overall, the Pumas are confident in their efforts as the season continues in all of its breathtaking madness.

"We are turning it around. We had a slow start this season, we kept beating ourselves up. But we are beginning to turn it around," says forward A.J. Mahar.

"The veteran leadership on this team has undoubtedly carried the team in tough situations," says junior guard Kenny Devance. "We have good senior leadership on this team that can take over in clutch situations. When you have proven 1000 point scorers in Devin (Thomas) and Ron (Coleman), our team can overcome adversity," said Devance.

The Pumas play sixth-ranked Drury University this Thursday at 7:30 at the Fieldhouse. Tipoff against Rockhurst University is scheduled for 3 PM this Saturday.

Left: Devin Thomas (20) looks up the floor. Right: A.J. Mahar (2) looks for the open pass against Bellarmine. (Photo by Tim McFarland C.P.P.S.; all statistics courtesy of SJC Sports Information.)

# Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Sage Sukey



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)  
Your birthday month seems promising, but unexpected roadblocks will pop up if you aren't careful. Keep your focus on others even if it's supposed to be your day to shine. They'll appreciate it and remember it later on.

**Pisces** (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)  
Do not get too nosy this coming week. People will be even less inclined than normal to share their woes with you with all that obnoxious advice you keep handing out. Keep your info-hungry gaze at bay and try to be more genuine.

**Aries** (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)  
Workout and use your energies to better your health this week. Any anger or excitement you feel can be put to good use in your studies and the workout room. This may be shortlived though.

**Taurus** (Apr. 20-May. 19)  
Thinking that you are always right isn't the best way to go about life, especially when it turns into a your way or the highway scenario. Take some time to listen to other sides of the story to understand where they are coming from.

**Gemini** (May 20-June 20)  
Being social right now doesn't seem to be working for you this week. You want to stay in and just do your work. Don't push everyone you know away, though. Go hang out for a while, even if your plate is full with work.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 21)  
If you have the time, take a break. Relax and do some light exercise or some game you have been wanting to play for a while. You deserve it with all your hardwork. Don't forget to get what you need done too.

**Leo** (July 22-Aug. 22)  
This week could be marvelous if you let it be. Unfortunately your mind seems to be elsewhere and is making it quite impossible to enjoy the here and now. You need to pause and ask yourself if that thing you're worried about is that important.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)  
Start organizing as soon as possible or you'll soon get lost in the mess of your dorm room. The projects are building up steadily and the best way to care for it all is prioritizing which are the most important and which are just time wasters.

**Libra** (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)  
Any plans you have this week will most likely be foiled, but you'll regain some leadership abilities later on. Socialize and make a spur of the moment decision to hang out with those people you love the most.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
Combine your emotions with your intellect this week. Your intuition is amazing when you spend a little more time thinking about it. Whatever you are wanting to do with that intuition, you need to keep it to yourself for awhile.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)  
Happiness and flexibility are ruling this week, but don't let this push your other emotions aside. If there is something on your mind you need to mention it as soon as possible to that person before it gets blown out of proportion and ruins things.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)  
If you wish that you are in different place this week, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine you are where you want to be. You'll get the chance to be there shortly enough so hang in a little more.

## Overheard

*If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to dmm6040@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!*

It's dead!  
Don't touch it!  
~  
Wakaw!  
~  
Stop molesting my carpet!  
~  
You can see where my fingers have been.  
~  
Yay for women with strong legs!  
~  
Are you sure it's in the right hole?  
~  
Yes, and now I'm straddling the wood.  
~  
I am not your bloody shiver monkey!  
~  
Don't poke your people.  
~  
I'm pussyfooting around like Snidley Whiplash.  
~  
No one gives a damn about your feelings.  
~  
Give me quotes peeps!

## Completely Random Facts

Chewing gum is outlawed in Singapore because it is a means of "tainting an environment free of dirt."

No one seems to know why people blush.

Scientists have identified more than 300 viruses capable of bringing fatal diseases to insects. The organisms are believed to be entirely different than those that cause disease in humans and are thus harmless to man.

Julius Caesar was self-conscious about his receding hairline.

"60 Minutes" is the only show on CBS that doesn't have a theme song.

The fortune cookie was invented in 1916 by George Jung, a Los Angeles noodlemaker.

Name of Lady Godiva's horse: Aethenoth.

Facts courtesy of [www.angelfire.com/ca6/uselessfacts/](http://www.angelfire.com/ca6/uselessfacts/)

## Nota Bene

The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder  
Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980)

Success is counted sweetest by those who ne'er succeed.  
Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Those who believe in telekinetics, raise my hand.  
Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007)

Real glory springs from the silent conquest of ourselves  
Joseph P. Thompson

## Looking for Romance?

Find the perfect mate here!



If you want to be as happy looking as this couple, you should probably stay away from this section.

Interested in one of these prospective mates? Please give them a shout out and write them a note to be placed here.

Place your own ad today!

E-mail your information to [dmm6040@saintjoe.edu](mailto:dmm6040@saintjoe.edu)

**Reporter Looking for a Good Story to Print**  
Friendly and personable staff writer is on the look out for a good story to include in the next issue. Think you have a good story to tell during some sweet pillow talk?

**Movie Junkie Needing an Extra Critic during Personal Showtimes**  
Meet in a darkened theatre to discuss and critique the current feature. It become a lonely business so company is needed to make the endeavor much more entertaining. Favorite movie is Bedknobs and Broomsticks.

**French Exchange Student Searching for a French Speaker**  
Voulez-vous coucher avec moi, ce soir? S'il vous plaît!



## Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for January 24  
(219) 866-2222  
[fountainstonetheaters.com](http://fountainstonetheaters.com)

27 Dresses  
Fri: 4:20, 6:40 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40  
Sun: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40  
Mon-Thurs: 4:20, 6:40

Alvin and the Chipmunks  
Fri: 4:40, 7:00 (PG)  
Sat: 2:20, 4:40, 7:00  
Sun: 2:20, 4:50, 7:00  
Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 7:00

The Bucket List  
Fri: 4:40, 6:50 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:10, 4:40, 6:50  
Sun: 2:10, 4:40, 6:50  
Mon-Thurs: 4:40, 6:50

Cloverfield  
Fri: 4:50, 7:10 (PG-13)  
Sat: 2:30, 4:50, 7:10  
Sun: 2:30, 4:50, 7:10  
Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 7:10

National Treasure: Book of Secrets  
Fri: 4:10, 6:30 (PG)  
Sat: 1:50, 4:10, 6:30  
Sun: 1:50, 4:10, 6:30  
Mon-Thurs: 4:10, 6:30  
Coming Soon

Meet the Spartans  
&  
Rambo  
1/25

## The Ritz Cinema

Movies for January 24  
(219) 866-0086  
[www.ritzcinema.net](http://www.ritzcinema.net)

Mad Money  
Every night at 7:00 (PG-13)  
Begins January 24

Coming Soon  
Charlie Wilson's War

## Events Around Campus

**Human iPod John Rush**  
< Takes you on a musical journey like no other one-man show can.  
< Plays his own original songs and those favorite songs you know all too well.  
< Not just another singer/songwriter wowing the audiences  
< ONE NIGHT ONLY in the Halleck Center brought to you by SUB.  
< Friday January 25 at 9:00 PM to 10:30 PM